(d) whether Government propose to take steps to recover the fine from those officials who are responsible for colluding with the dealer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Bank of Madura Limited had opened a few letters of credit on behalf of one Shri Vinod Kumar Didwania a dealer in steel items. The Collector of Customs, Madras on grounds of violation of Customs Act, 1962 had adjudicated the cases in respect of these transactions and ordered confiscation of the goods imported under section 111(d) of the Act. Since the supposed importers had not come forward to clear the goods, the Collector of Customs, Madras allowed the same to be redeemed by the Bank of Madura Ltd., as joint holder of the import licences on redemption fines totalling to Rs. 7 lakhs. Central Board of Excise and Customs reviewed this decision of the Collector of Customs, Madras and had thereafter directed him to apply to Customs, Central Excise and Gold (Control) Appellate Tribunal for enhancement of redemption fines and also for imposition of Personal penalties on Shri Vinod Kumar Didwania and the Bank of Madura Ltd. The Customs, Excise and Gold (Control) Appellate Tribunal allowed the appeals preferred by the Collector of Customs, Madras and enhanced the total fine on Bank of Madura Ltd. from Rs. 7 lakhs to Rs. 35 lakhs and also imposed a penalty of Rs. 10 lakhs on Shri Vinod Kumar Didwania.

(c) and (d) The matter has been taken up with Reserve Bank of India.

Amendment of Baggage Rules

986. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently amended the Baggage Rules for Indians returning for good on transfer of residence from foreign counties;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether adequate publicity in this regard has been given in foreign countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) There has been no recent amendment in the Transfer of Residence Rules for Indians returning for good from foreign countries. However, the Baggage Rules have recently been amended to provide *inter alia* that in respect of Colour Televisions, Video Cassette Recorders, Video Cassette Players and Video Cameras imported into India, the duty-free allowance permitted to be set off against the value of these articles would be limited to Rs. 500. The amendments further provide that no concessional duty or free allowance will be available for clearing unaccompanied baggage.

(c) The changes have been intimated to all Indian Missions abroad for adequate publicity in those countries.

Review of public distribution system

987. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to review the public distribution system with a view to making the essential commodities available to the common man at reasonable prices; and

(b) if so, what are the main features of this system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) The Union Government continuously reviews and monitors the functioning of public Distribution System in the country. The Central

Government has been suggesting to the States/Union Territories, from time to time, measures to improve the working of Public Distribution System by proper control, sustained supervision, efficient management and development of a proper monitoring system at the State, district and block/taluka levels to ensure up-to-date information in respect of availability or otherwise of essential commodities through fair price shops. They have also been advised to develop a suitable district plan in respect of essential commodities in various areas within the jurisdiction of a particular district. Having regard to the consumer oriented nature of the Public Distribution System, the need for active and popular participation of the representatives of consumers in the Consumer Advisory Committees at various levels has also been impressed upon them. A periodical review of the working of Public Distribution System is also made in the meetings of the Advisory Council on Public Distribution System which are held under the Chairmanship of Union Ministers of Food and Civil Supplies of all the States/Union Territories are ex-officio members of this council. In the last meeting of the Advisory Council on Public Distribution System held under the Chairmanship of the Union Minister for Food and Civil Supplies on 29th October, 1985, the representatives of the States/Union Territories were requested to initiate effective steps for covering rural, backward and far-flung areas through a network of fair price shops and also to ensure timely supply of essential commodities to fair price shops through a system of surprise checks and continuous monitoring.

Implementation of Palekar Award

988. SHRI S. W. DHABE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of newspaper establishments in the country which have implemented the recommendations of the Palekar Award;

(b) what was the position as on 1st January, 1986 in this regard;

(c) what are the names of the newspapers which have partially implemented or which have not at all implemented the recommendations of the Palekar Award; and

(d) what action Government have taken against the management of such newspapers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected from State Governments/Union Territory Administrations, which are the appropriate authorities in the matter and the same would be laid on the Table of the House, when received.

Decline in export of cotton textiles

989. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that export of cotton textiles has of late gone down appreciably;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the declining trend in its export; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to improve the cotton textile export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) and (b) There has been no decline in export of cotton textiles during the first 9 months of 1985-86 as compared to the exports during the corresponding period last year.

(c) steps for improving export of cotton textiles:

(1) Soft loan scheme is available for modernisation of the textile industry.